

**AMENDMENT**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as indicated in Appendix A submitted herewith according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 concerning a manner for making claim amendments.

**REMARKS**

Claims 19-25 and 41-44 are presently pending in the captioned application subsequent to the enclosed amendment. Claims 19-22 are currently amended and new claims 41-44 added. Claims 1-18 and 26-40 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice as to the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 19-22 have been amended to recite that  $A_1^{n-}$  of the formula (1) is a silicic acid ion limited to  $HSi_2O_5^-$  and that the hydrotalcite compound has a BET specific surface area of 50 to 400  $m^2/g$ . Support for a silicic acid ion limited to  $HSi_2O_5^-$  can be found in Examples 1-3 and 8-12 of the present invention. Support for the limitation of the BET specific surface area can be found in the original claim 22.

Support for new claims 41-43 can be found in claims 23-25. New claim 43 corresponds to claim 26.